

Message Text

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64

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 EB-07 NEA-10 TAR-01 FEA-01

ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00

FPC-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01

PM-04 USIA-06 SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04

TRSE-00 /109 W

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R 081829Z OCT 75

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9715

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRUSSELS 09045

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, VE, ENRG, EEC

SUBJECT: SOAMES' VISIT TO VENEZUELA

REF: A. CARACAS 10131 (B) STATE 236285

1. ON OCTOBER 7 AMBASSADOR GREENWALD RAISED WITH SOAMES THE REPORT IN

PARA. 2 REFTEL A OF SOAMES' PUBLIC STATEMENT RE "TARIFF REPRISALS IN
RESPONSE TO AN INCREASE IN CRUDE OIL PRICES."

2. SOAMES SAID THAT HE DID NOT HAVE A TRANSCRIPT OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE.

HOWEVER, HE AND HANNAY, WHO WAS ALSO PRESENT, AGREED THAT THE SUBJECT
HAD BEEN BROUGHT UP BY A US CORRESPONDENT WHO ASKED WHETHER THE
COMMUNITY INTENDS TO DISCRIMINATE AGAINST OPEC COUNTRIES IN ITS GENERAL

ALIZED TARIFF PREFERENCE SCHEME (GSP) IN THE SAME WAY AS THE UNITED
STATES. SOAMES SAID HIS ANSWER WAS THAT THE COMMUNITY HAS ALWAYS BEEN
NON-DISCRIMINATORY IN THE OPERATION OF ITS GSP SYSTEM AND IT HAS NO

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INTENTION OF ALTERING THAT POLICY. SOAMES' EXPLANATION FOR THE OUT-

COME
REPORTED IN REFTEL A IS THAT IT WAS A MISLEADING COMBINATION OF
QUESTION AND ANSWER.

3. IN RESPONSE TO AMBASSADOR GREENWALD'S EXPRESSION OF
CONCERN ABOUT THE IMPRESSION OF ASPLIT BETWEEN THE US AND
THE EC ON OIL PRICE INCREASES, SOAMES SAID HE HAD NOT
REPEAT NOT GIVEN ANY GROUNDS FOR SUCH AN IMPRESSION AND
WOULD NEVER DO SO PUBLICLY. ALSO, HE WOULD NOT COMMENT
PUBLICLY ON THE OPERATION OF THE US SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES.
GREENWALD

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, VE, EEC, (SOAMES, CHRISTOPHER)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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